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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 10/656,227 | 09/08/2003 | Soichiro Ogawa | 50340-156 | 1064 |

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McDERMOTT, WILL & EMERY
600 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-3096

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| EXAMINER |
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ECHELMeyer, ALIX ELIZABETH

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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1795

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| MAIL DATE | DELIVERY MODE |
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08/27/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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| <p align="center">Advisory Action Before the Filing of an Appeal Brief</p> | <p>Application No. 10/656,227</p> | <p>Applicant(s) OGAWA, SOICHIRO</p> | |
| | <p>Examiner Alix Elizabeth Echelmeyer</p> | <p>Art Unit 1795</p> | |

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 21 August 2009 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE.

1. ☒ The reply was filed after a final rejection, but prior to or on the same day as filing a Notice of Appeal. To avoid abandonment of this application, applicant must timely file one of the following replies: (1) an amendment, affidavit, or other evidence, which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee) in compliance with 37 CFR 41.31; or (3) a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114. The reply must be filed within one of the following time periods:

- a) ☒ The period for reply expires 3 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
b) ☐ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.

Examiner Note: If box 1 is checked, check either box (a) or (b). ONLY CHECK BOX (b) WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

NOTICE OF APPEAL

2. ☐ The Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. A brief in compliance with 37 CFR 41.37 must be filed within two months of the date of filing the Notice of Appeal (37 CFR 41.37(a)), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 41.37(e)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal. Since a Notice of Appeal has been filed, any reply must be filed within the time period set forth in 37 CFR 41.37(a).

AMENDMENTS

3. ☐ The proposed amendment(s) filed after a final rejection, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because
(a) ☐ They raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
(b) ☐ They raise the issue of new matter (see NOTE below);
(c) ☐ They are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
(d) ☐ They present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: _____. (See 37 CFR 1.116 and 41.33(a)).

4. ☐ The amendments are not in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121. See attached Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (PTOL-324).
5. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
6. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
7. ☐ For purposes of appeal, the proposed amendment(s): a) ☐ will not be entered, or b) ☐ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.
The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:
Claim(s) allowed: _____.
Claim(s) objected to: _____.
Claim(s) rejected: _____.
Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____.

AFFIDAVIT OR OTHER EVIDENCE

8. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after a final action, but before or on the date of filing a Notice of Appeal will not be entered because applicant failed to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why the affidavit or other evidence is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 1.116(e).
9. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after the date of filing a Notice of Appeal, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because the affidavit or other evidence failed to overcome all rejections under appeal and/or appellant fails to provide a showing a good and sufficient reasons why it is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 41.33(d)(1).
10. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence is entered. An explanation of the status of the claims after entry is below or attached.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION/OTHER

11. ☒ The request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because:
See Continuation Sheet.
12. ☐ Note the attached Information *Disclosure Statement*(s). (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s). _____.
13. ☐ Other: _____.

/PATRICK RYAN/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1795

Continuation of 11. does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: the arguments are not persuasive.

Beginning on page 3, Applicant argues that Sugita et al. do not teach the bolt (166) penetrating the case. The examiner agrees, and cited Tanaka et al. as rendering such an arrangement obvious. Applicant argues that Tanaka et al. do not teach that the bolt (104) penetrates the end plate. The examiner contends that the bolt (104), in fact, does penetrate the end plate of Tanaka et al. (See Fig 3). According to Encarta Dictionary, to penetrate is to enter or pass through something, e.g. by piercing it or forcing a way in. The bolt of Tanaka et al. enters the endplate, and therefore penetrates the endplate. Applicant is reminded that the examiner must give words their ordinary meaning and broadest reasonable interpretation. MPEP 2111.01 III.

Next, Applicant argues that the bolts (80) of Rock are not located on the exterior of the case and the bolts do not support the fuel cell stack to the case. The examiner disagrees. Applicant states, on the top of page 5, that the walls of Rock "are not a self-supporting structure, unlike the case (3) of the present invention." The claims as filed do not require that the case support the fuel cell, only that the case houses the fuel cell. The walls of Rock house the fuel cell by providing a container in which the fuel cell is held. Further, the claims require not that the case support the fuel cell but that the bolts support the fuel cell to the stack. Based on Applicant's arguments on page 5, it appears that Applicant is interpreting the claim language to mean that the case should be held tightly to the fuel cell without allowance for movement, as opposed to the wall of Rock that is provided with slits. Again, Applicant is reminded that the examiner must give the words of the claims their plain meaning. Encarta defines support as to keep something or somebody stable, upright, or in place, or to prevent something or somebody from falling. The examiner finds that the wall of Rock is supported to the fuel cell, or kept in place and prevented from falling. Additionally, the examiner finds that Tanaka et al. teach that the case is supported to the fuel cell by bolts that penetrate the endplate, and the teachings of Rock that are relied upon are the teachings of bolts on both ends of the endplate.

In response to applicant's argument that the examiner's conclusion of obviousness is based upon improper hindsight reasoning, it must be recognized that any judgment on obviousness is in a sense necessarily a reconstruction based upon hindsight reasoning. But so long as it takes into account only knowledge which was within the level of ordinary skill at the time the claimed invention was made, and does not include knowledge gleaned only from the applicant's disclosure, such a reconstruction is proper. See *In re McLaughlin*, 443 F.2d 1392, 170 USPQ 209 (CCPA 1971). .